

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00  
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, JULY 20, 1977

1. SUMMARY: IN JULY 20 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP,  
US REP GAVE BRIEFING ON STATUS OF BILATERAL (US, USSR)  
CW CONSULTATIONS AND TRILATERAL (US, UK, USSR) CTB  
CONSULTATIONS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF WESTERN GROUP RAISED  
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON CTB, AND THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE  
TACTICAL SITUATION IN CCD IN REGARD TO ITS SCHEDULE AND  
PROGRAM OF WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JULY 20 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP (CANADA,  
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FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER)  
GAVE BRIEFING ON PRESENT STATUS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
(CW) DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND USSR, AND OF COMPREHENSIVE  
TEST BAN (CTB) DISCUSSIONS AMONG US, UK, AND USSR. US REP  
REMARKED ON ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL POLITICAL OVERTONES OR  
SPILLOVER FROM US-SOVIET TENSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
THE GENERAL STATUS OF DETENTE, SAYING THAT THE RUSSIANS

SEEM GENUINELY INTERESTED IN MAKING PROGRESS ON CW AND CTB AND DISPOSED TO TREAT THEM IN A BUSINESSLIKE WAY. THE TRILATERAL CTB TALKS, THE US REP SAID, HAVE NOT YET DEALT WITH VERIFICATION, BUT THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS ABOUT HOW TO TREAT PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNE'S) IN THE CONTEXT OF A CTB REGIME, WITH THE US AND THE UK MAINTAINING THAT PNE'S MUST BE EXCLUDED. THE SOVIET POSITION, HE SAID, HAS BEEN THE EXACT OPPOSITE. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE USSR HAS YET FACED UP TO THE ULTIMATE POLITICAL DECISION ON WHETHER IT DESIRES TO CONCLUDE A CTB WHICH EXCLUDES PNE'S.

3. CANADIAN REP (JAY), REFERRING TO ARTICLE V OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT), ASKED WHETHER THE US THINKS THAT EXCLUDING PNE'S WILL PROVE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE MULTILATERALLY, EVEN IF THE SOVIETS CAN BE BROUGHT TO AGREE. US REP RESPONDED THAT, EXCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, IT IS UNCLEAR WHERE ANY SERIOUS INSISTENCE ON PNE'S WOULD COME FROM, SINCE THE POSITION OF INDIA HAS APPARENTLY CHANGED AND ALTHOUGH EGYPT HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED THE UNSUITABILITY OF PNE'S FOR EXCAVATING A CHANNEL TO THE QATTARA DEPRESSION. BESIDES, THE US REP STATED, THE NPT PROMISES ONLY "POTENTIAL BENEFITS" OF PNE'S AND RELATES TO A SITUATION IN WHICH THE PARTIES WHICH ARE NUCLEAR-WEAPON-STATES (NWS) HAVE NOT MATERIALLY REDUCED THEIR OWN PEROGRATIVES; ON THE OTHER HAND, A CTB WOULD DIRECTLY AFFECT NWS PARTIES, AND

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THIS FACT WOULD ALTER THE EQUATION RELATING TO THE THEORETICAL VALUE OF PNE'S.

4. ON CTB VERIFICATION, US REP STATED THAT THE US INTENDS TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF AUTOMATIC SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS (FORMERLY CALLED "BLACK BOXES") SOON, AND THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASKED TO CLARIFY WHAT THEY MEAN BY THEIR PROPOSAL AT THE 31ST UNGA FOR ON-SITE INSPECTION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE "BLACK BOXES": FOR THOSE LOCATED ON SOVIET TERRITORY, WOULD THE US INTEND TO RETAIN SOLE OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS, OR WOULD THEY BE CONNECTED WITH SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION MECHANISM? US REP REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DETAILS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY WORKED OUT, THE US CONTEMPLATES AUTOMATIC SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS WITH REAL-TIME DATA RELAY BY SATELLITE, AND WHICH COULD BE LINKED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA NETWORK. IN ORDER FOR THE HOST COUNTRY TO BE SURE THAT THE "BLACK BOX" IS NOT ALSO COLLECTING OTHER INFORMATION, ORIGINAL PLACEMENT WOULD BE SUPERVISED BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THAT COUNTRY. (COMMENT: JAPANESE QUESTION RAISES SIGNIFICANT ISSUES WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ARISE IN MULTILATERAL CTB

NEGOTIATIONS. US DEL VERY MUCH DOUBTS THAT VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS TO WHICH ONLY NWS HAVE ACCESS WOULD PROVE NEGOTIABLE IN CCD. END COMMENT)

5. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) INQUIRED ABOUT CTB PROVISIONS FOR ADHERENCE BY OTHER NWS (FRANCE, CHINA), US REP STATED THAT THE US IS IN FAVOR OF A CTB WHICH SPECIFIES THAT IF NOT ALL NWS HAVE ADHERED AT THE END OF A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, PARTIES COULD WITHDRAW WITHOUT HAVING TO CITE EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS WHICH JEOPARDIZE THEIR SUPREME INTERESTS. SOVIET REPS HAVE SAID THAT THE PERIOD SHOULD BE TWO YEARS AND HAVE NOT YET COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO A CTB TREATY AS OPPOSED TO A MORATORIUM.

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6. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF CCFD'S ORGANIZATION OF WORK, CANADIAN REP (JAY) SAID THAT SWEDISH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE INGA THORSSON, CURRENTLY IN GENEVA, NOW SEEMS COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF MOVING UP THE DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS IN THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE AND OF RECONVENING CCD FOR A FALL-WINTER SESSION IN GENEVA SOME TIME BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER.

7. ON THE MEXICAN CALL FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF CCD PROCEDURES DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15 THROUGH 19, US REP (FISHER) SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE USG IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS IDEA, THE USG CAN LIVE WITH IT. HOWEVER, SOVIET OPPOSITION, THE US REP SAID, SEEMS MUCH STRONGER, RELATING TO THE USSR'S GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE PREROGATIVES OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN THAN POLITICAL REALITIES JUSTIFY. UK REP (ASHE) SAID THAT SINCE CCD'S ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE UNGA'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), SCHEDULED FOR MAY-JUNE 1978, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE A PREVIEW. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) URGED THAT THE US NOT ANTAGONIZE THE MEXICAN REP (GARCIA ROBLES) UNNECESSARILY, AND THAT IF THE SOVIETS WISH TO EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON PROCEDURES THEN THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN SHOULD BEAR THE BURDEN OF DOING SO. US REP INDICATED THAT THIS IS HIS VIEW AS WELL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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